[23rd February 1934

Reasons for levying a uniform water-rate in Polavaram island.

* 674 *Q.*—Mr. K. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in fixing the consolidated rate for wet lands in the main delta, a differential rate is calculated according to the quality and position of the lands and the same is added to the dry rate; and

(*b*) if so, why a uniform rate of Rs. 10-8-0 is levied in the Polavaram island?

A.—No. The fixing of assessment on lands, wet or dry, is governed by the principles usually followed at settlements. These principles are laid down in Board's Standing Order No. 1 and the Manual of the Madras Revenue Settlement Department. Water-cess on dry lands is levied under the Irrigation Cess Act, and the rate of Rs. 10-8-0 to which the hon. Member refers comes under this category.

Levy of korambu-cess in Namakkal taluk, Salem district.

* 675 *Q.*—K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a cess called korambu-cess is collected along with land revenue for lands in the Cauvery irrigated area in the Namakkal taluk of the Salem district;

(*b*) if so, from which date, for what reasons, and under whose authority such a cess is levied and collected;

(*c*) whether a copy of the order sanctioning the levy of such a cess will be placed on the table;

(*d*) what the rate is of such cess originally levied;

(*e*) whether the rate has been increased subsequently;

(*f*) if so, by how much, when and under whose order or authority;

(*g*) whether a copy of such order or authority will be placed on the table;

(*h*) whether the increase was made temporarily or as a permanent measure;

(*i*) if it was made temporarily, whether it has been again reduced; and

(*j*) if so, when and under what orders and, if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) A cess called the irrigation-cess is being collected.

(*b*) & (*c*) The cess has been in force since 1872. It was imposed in lieu of grain fees payable by the ryots as remuneration to the staff employed to look after the channels and

the customary labour for the repair of the channels which the ryots were liable to contribute.

The channels had been under the control of the Public Works Department but as the officers of that department had not been able to enforce the payment of grain fees large arrears accumulated and the establishments had not received their emoluments regularly. In 1872, the Collector took charge of the channels. The Collector obtained the consent of the ryots for the commutation of the grain fees and customary labour into money payments. For further particulars the attention of the hon. Member is invited to Mr. Longley's report, dated 16th April 1872, printed on pages 476–484 of the Salem District Manual.

(*d*) The rates of cess originally levied were Rs. 2 for land irrigated directly and Re. 1 for land irrigated by baling.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) By 50 per cent in 1926, under the orders of the Government.

(*g*) A copy [a] of G.O. No. 1103, Revenue, dated 5th July 1926, is attached.

(*h*) & (*i*) The increase was made in the first instance as a temporary measure for three years. Subsequently the Government ordered that the increased rate should continue until certain conditions were fulfilled—see G.O. No. 478, Revenue, dated 18th March 1930—copy [a] attached.

(*j*) The conditions required for the restoration of the old rate have not yet been fulfilled.

Prices

Price of paddy in the Ganjam district.

* 676 *Q.*—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether paddy from the feudatory states of Orissa is sold in Ghumsur taluk in Ganjam district;

(*b*) the price at which paddy is now sold in Ghumsur taluk, in Berhampur and Chatrapur taluks in Ganjam district;

(*c*) the price of paddy on the basis of which the last settlement of land revenue was made in Ghumsur, Berhampur and Chatrapur taluks of the Ganjam district; and

(*d*) whether the Government have taken any steps to create a demand for paddy and for the sale of paddy at a higher price?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 179 infra.